

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 2, 3 and 7. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figs. 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8. Additionally, three sheets of annotated drawings are submitted herewith. No new matter was added by any of the amendments made to the drawings.

The following paragraphs describe the changes made to Figs. 2, 3 and 7.

Reference number 30 and the associated lead lines were added to Figs. 2 and 3.

Reference number 101 and the associated lead line was added to Fig. 7.

Attachments: Annotated Sheets (3)
Replacement Sheets (3)

REMARKS

This response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action mailed on August 23, 2006. Claims 1, 2 and 4-22 are pending in the patent application. Claim 19 was previously withdrawn. Claims 1, 4 and 11 have been amended. Claims 8 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 23 has been added. Additionally, replacement drawing sheets, including Figs. 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 and the corresponding annotated drawing sheets, are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added by this response.

In the Final Office Action, the Patent Office indicated that the drawings submitted in the previous response were received and accepted. The Patent Office states that a marked up copy of the replacement sheets must be submitted and labeled as “Annotated Sheets.” Applicant has submitted a copy of the annotated sheets that show the changes made to Figs. 2, 3 and 7. A copy of the replacement sheets are also submitted herewith.

Claims 1-2, 4-18 and 20, are objected to because of informalities. Specifically, the Patent Office states that there are informalities in claim 1, claim 4 and claim 11. Applicant has amended claims 1, 4 and 11 to correct the informalities.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8, 11-14, 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,161,870 to Mason et al. (“*Mason*”). Applicant disagrees with and traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to drawer panel for the front end of the drawer and includes an elongated wall having a front surface and a rear surface. The drawer panel also includes a projection on the wall that has a base portion extending rearwardly from the rear surface of the wall and an attachment portion integral with the base portion and extending substantially parallel to the rear surface of the wall for cooperation with the rear surface to define an open-ended channel therebetween that extends the entire length of the wall. The drawer panel also includes a

drawer pull at the front surface of the wall. *Mason* does not disclose or suggest such subject matter.

Mason is directed to a file drawer having a removable outer drawer head 20. The Patent Office states that *Mason* “clearly discloses and...clearly shows that projection 48 [is] an L-shaped flange....[that] extends rearwardly from and perpendicular to the rear surface of the front panel 20 . . . with the other leg of the L-shaped flange extends downwardly and substantially parallel to the rear surface of the front wall for cooperation with the rear surface to define an open-ended channel that extends the entire length of the wall . . .” (See the Final Office Action, page 7). Applicant disagrees.

First, *Mason* distinctly shows in Fig. 2 that the L-shaped flange 48 extends at a 90 degree angle or is perpendicular to the top edge of the drawer head 20. As stated in *Mason*, “the outer drawer head 20 is secured to the drawer body 10 by inserting the L-shaped flange 48 of the outer drawer head 20 onto the upwardly projecting flange 34 of the inner drawer head 18....”. (Col. 3, lines 7-14). In support, Fig. 4 shows the upwardly projecting flange 34 of the inner drawer head 18 contacting the L-shaped flange 48. *Mason* does not disclose or suggest an attachment portion (or second leg) that is integral with the base portion and which extends substantially parallel to the rear surface of the drawer head 20 for cooperation with the rear surface to define an open-ended channel therebetween as in the claimed invention. Applicant submits that it is clear in *Mason* that the L-shaped flange 48 does not have a portion which extends upwardly or downwardly from the flange and which is parallel to the rear surface of the drawer head. Thus, *Mason* does not disclose or suggest the attachment portion of the claimed invention.

Second, *Mason* does not disclose or suggest a drawer front that defines an open-ended channel that extends the entire length of the panel wall. As shown in Fig. 2 of *Mason*, the

recessed portion of the outer drawer head 20, which receives the inner drawer head 18, does not define an open-ended channel that extends the entire length of the outer drawer head or any type of channel. As stated in *Mason*, “[t]he forwardly projecting flange extensions 36 of the inner drawer head 18 coact with the inwardly directed side flanges 50 of the outer drawer head 20 in order to center the outer drawer head 20 on the inner drawer head 18.” The outer drawer head 20 therefore defines a closed-end recess or channel that receives the inner drawer head 18.

Amended claim 11 is directed to a drawer, including similar subject matter to amended claim 1. Specifically, amended claim 11 includes “a projection on the panel wall having a base portion extending rearwardly from the rear surface of the panel wall and an attachment portion integral with the base portion and extending therefrom substantially parallel to the rear surface of the panel wall for cooperation with the rear surface of the panel wall to define an open-ended channel therebetween that extends the entire length of the panel wall.” As stated above, *Mason* does not disclose or suggest such subject matter.

Claims 2 and 10 call for a drawer pull at the front surface of the wall which is either “unitary” with the panel wall or which extends the entire length thereof. As stated in *Mason*, rectangular cut 46 on drawer head 20 is positioned in the center of the drawer head to accommodate a handle insert. *Mason* does not disclose or suggest that the rectangular cut 46 is a drawer pull or sized to be the length of any handle insert. Thus, these are additional reasons for the allowance of claims 2 and 10.

Furthermore, *Mason* does not disclose or suggest a “front panel [that] is crimped to the mounting structure” as in claim 13 or an “attachment portion of the mounting structure [that] includes a folded under portion” as in claim 16. Thus, claims 13 and 16 are also patentable over *Mason*.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 11, and the claims that depend therefrom, are each patentably distinguished over *Mason* and in condition for allowance.

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mason*.

Claim 21 is directed to a method of making a drawer including “providing a drawer panel including an elongated panel wall having a front surface and a rear surface and a projection extending from the rear surface and having a portion extending substantially parallel to the rear surface and cooperating therewith to define an open-ended channel therebetween.” The method also includes the step of “slidingly inserting the attachment portion of the mounting structure in the channel of the drawer panel and sliding the panel therealong until the panel reaches a mounted position extending across the front end of the drawer body.” As stated above, *Mason* does not disclose or suggest a projection extending from a rear surface where the projection has a portion extending substantially parallel to the rear surface. *Mason* also does not disclose or suggest slidingly inserting a mounting structure in the outer drawer head the extends across the front end of the drawer body as in claim 21. Instead in *Mason*, the inner drawer head pivotably attaches to the outer drawer head at a center portion of the outer drawer head (not along the length of the outer drawer head).

For at least these reasons, amended claim 21 and claim 22, which depends from amended claim 21, are each patentably distinguished over *Mason* and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-12, 4-15, 18 and 20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,842,420 to Hansen et al. (“*Hansen*”) in view of U.S. Patent

No. 3,526,934 to Owen Sr. (“*Owen*”). Applicant disagrees with and traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

A person skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine *Hansen* and *Owen* to achieve the claimed invention where there is no teaching or suggestion in the references to make such a combination. *Hansen* is directed to a drawer front for a drawer and is, therefore, directed to the field of drawers, or at best, furniture. *Owen* is directed to interlocking spacers for electrical conduit. Applicant fails to see how *Hansen* and *Owen* are related when a person skilled in the art would even consider *Owen* in combination with *Hansen*. Applicant submits that *Hansen* and *Owen* are non-analogous art which cannot be combined to achieve the claimed invention.

Additionally, it is evident that the Patent Office used Applicant’s invention as a template for combining *Hansen* and *Owen*. As stated above, *Owen* is directed to interlocking spacers for electrical conduit and has no relationship to drawer fronts or drawers as disclosed in *Hansen*. Therefore, there is no other reason to combine *Owen* with *Hansen*, other than the claimed invention itself. The Patent Office, therefore, used improper hindsight to combine *Hansen* and *Owen* to achieve the claimed invention.

Even if *Hansen* and *Owen* are combined, the combination does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Referring to the cross-section view of Fig. 2 in *Hansen*, the rear surface of the front wall 10 does not define an open-ended channel that extends the entire length of the wall as in the claimed invention. Instead, the grooves which join the side walls to the rear surface of the front wall are located at the ends of the front wall. (see Fig. 1). *Owen* does not remedy the deficiencies of *Hansen*.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 11 and the claims that depend therefrom, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Hansen* and *Owen* and in the condition for allowance.

Claim 17 is objected to as being depended upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has cancelled claim 17 and rewritten it as new claim 23. New claim 23 includes the subject matter of independent claim 11, dependent claim 16, and objected to claim 17. Applicant submits that new claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-2, 4-16, 18, 20-22, and new claim 23, are patentable and non-obvious over the art of the record because the cited art does not disclose, teach or suggest, the subject matter of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant requests that claims 1-2, 4-16, 18, 20-22 and new claim 23, be deemed allowable at this time and that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

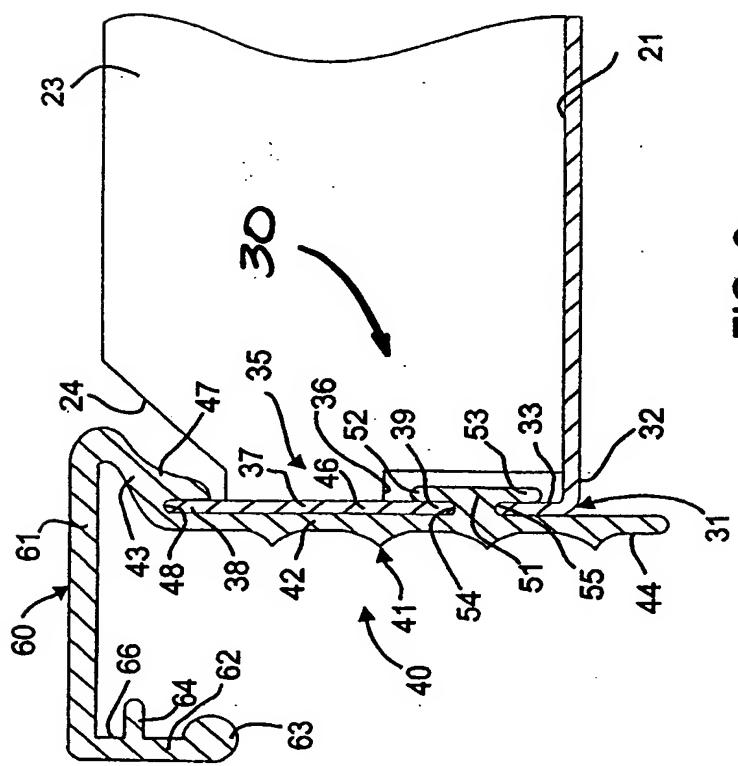
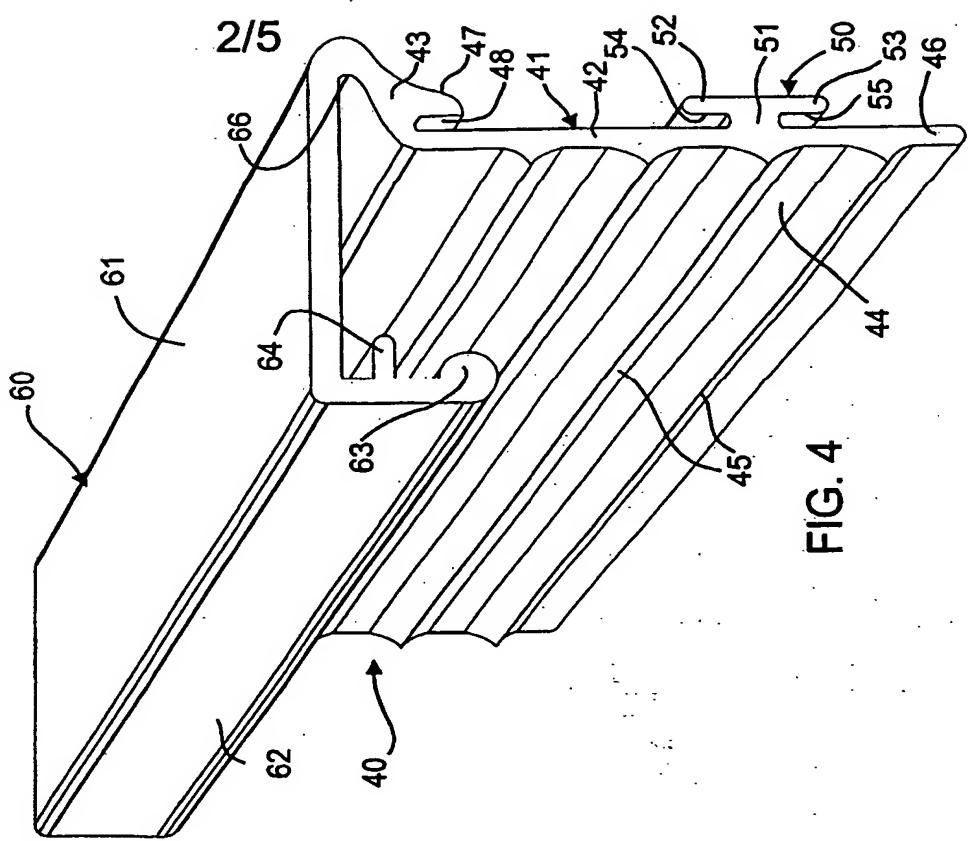
A check in the amount of \$200.00 is submitted with this response to cover the fees for the newly added claim. If any other are due in connection with this application, the Patent Office is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 19-1351. If such withdrawal is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (25493-457390) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Christopher S. Hermanson
Reg. No. 48,244
Customer No. 27717



REPLACEMENT DRAWING SHEETS



3/5

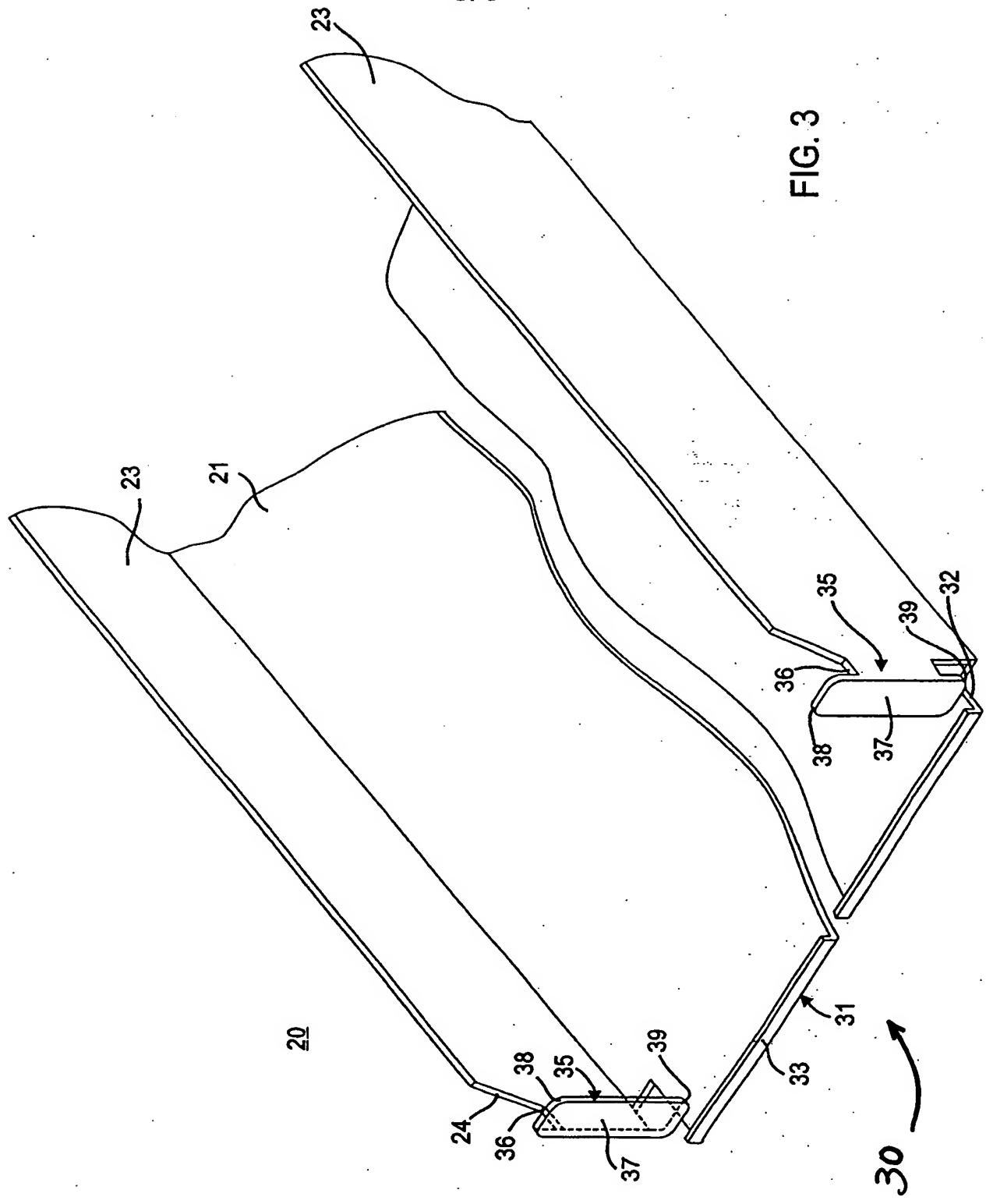


FIG. 3

FIG. 8

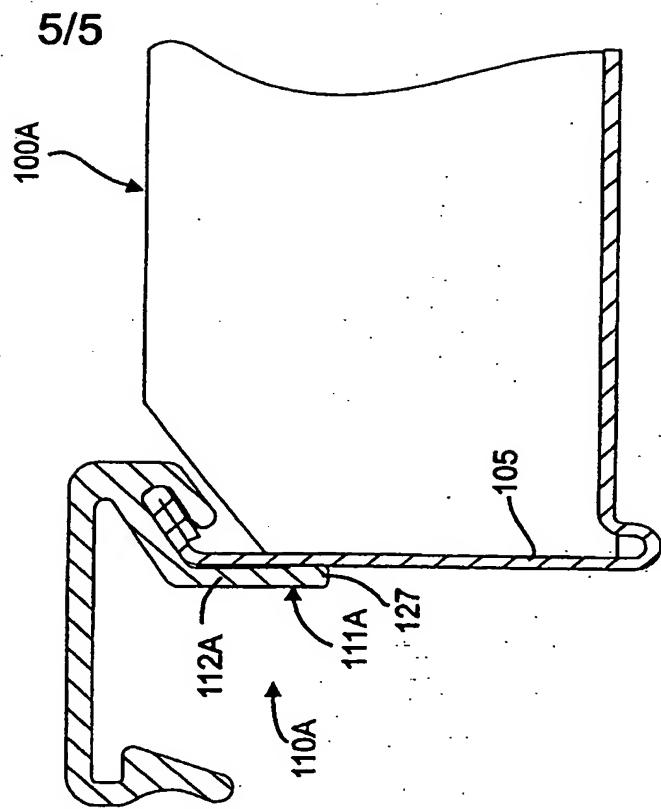


FIG. 7

